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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6659**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 164

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 28, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Sheriff's Department Survivor Benefits.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Bray

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that, without regard to any maximum statutory compensation period, the surviving spouse of a county police officer or a county sheriff who was killed in the line of duty is entitled to receive worker 's compensation benefits until the earlier of: (1) the surviving spouse's remarriage; or (2) the surviving spouse's death.

The bill makes conforming amendments and technical corrections.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2010.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The bill would increase the workers compensation death benefit expenses for county police officers or a county sheriff killed in the line of duty. The impact would depend on the number of county police and sheriffs that die in the line of duty and whose surviving spouse is receiving a workers compensation death benefit after June 30, 2010.

Currently, under the worker compensation law, when death results from an injury within 500 weeks of the injury, there is paid to the dependents 66 2/3% of the deceased's average weekly wage for 500 weeks after the injury. The bill would increase the length of time the surviving spouse could receive the workers compensation death benefit to be the earlier of the spouse's remarriage or death. The cost statewide is probably minor.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825